

THE 91ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on Monday we observed the 91st anniversary of the Armenian genocide. On April 24, 1915, the Turkish Ottoman Empire began a coordinated campaign of deportation, expropriation, torture, starvation, and massacre which lasted 8 long years and left an estimated 1.5 million Armenians dead. The violence forced an additional 500,000 people to leave their homeland and live in exile.

The Armenian genocide is a shameful period in world history that highlights the catastrophic consequences of inaction in the face of violent persecution. It is a tragedy which could have and should have been prevented by the intervention of all nations who value freedom and peace. A retired Theodore Roosevelt wrote in 1918, "The Armenian horror is an accomplished fact. Its occurrence was largely due to the policy of pacifism this nation has followed for the last four years." Roosevelt argued for U.S. involvement "because the Armenian massacre was the greatest crime of the war, and failure to act against Turkey is to condone it; because the failure to deal radically with the Turkish horror means that all talk of guaranteeing the future peace of the world is mischievous nonsense."

It is important to make clear that the annual remembrance of the Armenian genocide is not a condemnation of our NATO partner, the present day Republic of Turkey. Indeed, it was the founder of the Republic, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who ended the Ottoman government.

Instead, the annual remembrance of the Armenian genocide presents us with an opportunity to both honor the memory of those that were lost and rededicate ourselves to working with our allies, including Turkey, to prevent any occurrences of persecution and genocide around the world.

Unfortunately, we know too well that the Armenian genocide was the first but not the only genocide of the 20th century, and millions more perished as additional genocides were perpetrated against innocent minorities in Europe, Africa, and Asia. In remembering the victims of past genocides, we must now turn our efforts to ending the first genocide of the 21st century in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Only by remembering the loss of family and loved ones and by working to alleviate the current suffering of others can we truly honor the victims of the Armenian genocide. That is the goal of the 91st anniversary remembrance of the Armenian genocide.

EARTH DAY 2006

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, this past weekend we celebrated Earth Day. That celebration, begun in 1970 by the late Gaylord Nelson, a great environmental leader whose U.S. Senate seat I hold today, provides us the chance to

reflect on our environmental past, take stock of our present environmental situation, and formulate a vision for our environmental future.

We have much to be proud of in our past, especially the bipartisan initiatives that were produced in the 1970s, including the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Water Act. Unfortunately, our present environmental circumstances show we have a lot of work to do. Mercury pollution contaminates our waterways and threatens the health of our citizens, increased greenhouse gas emissions feed global climate change, and the majestic Great Lakes, a natural resource of particular interest to me and my fellow Wisconsinites, face such threats as invasive species and loss of wetlands. It is the future, though, that I urge Americans from all walks of life and from all across the country to focus on as they celebrate Earth Day this year.

Quite frankly, over the next few years we will face major decisions that will shape our relationship to our natural resources. We can make decisions that demonstrate we want a future that recognizes that when we disrespect and dishonor the planet, we, in fact, disrespect and dishonor ourselves, or by failing to act or by making short-sighted choices, we can turn our backs on our responsibility to pass on to future generations a vibrant and living planet.

Despite what is at stake, there is reason for hope. One of the most pressing challenges we face is that of making a commitment—both individually and collectively—to adopting sustainable energy habits that will serve the country for years to come. Our Nation, throughout its history, has faced challenges that we have overcome based on our ingenuity and our unwillingness to fail. It is this attitude that must be embraced today as we look to our energy future.

We must challenge ourselves to adopt a new energy vision for the 21st century. This new vision involves moving away from our dependence on oil, a source of energy that puts our environment, our national security, and our economy at risk. We all know that the burning fossil fuels, like oil, emits tremendous amounts of greenhouse gases into our atmosphere and that these gases fuel global warming. We all also know that global climate change is a problem plagued by a lack of leadership by the current administration and by its allies in Congress. Getting real about global warming—which must happen soon—will require a commitment to reducing our dependence on oil as opposed to continually fighting about opening up pristine areas, including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, for oil drilling. Reducing our dependence on oil will also make us more secure. Given that we have less than 3 percent of the world's proven oil reserves here in the United States, we will be dependent on others for our fuel

until we get serious about using biofuels that can be produced here at home.

A new energy future will not create itself—it will require a dedicated effort by individuals across the country and by decision makers at all levels. This new energy future can be built on efforts to be more efficient, efforts to only use only what we need, and efforts to use renewable sources of energy. While the Federal Government has failed to take bold action, Americans are forging ahead, actually leading the way. For example, students at universities are holding competitions to reduce energy use, and nearly 200 cities are part of a nationwide movement to reduce greenhouse emissions in their cities to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012.

But more must be done, and Americans must demand accountability and leadership from their Federal elected officials.

So as we come together on Earth Day 2006, let's make a commitment to each other and to future generations to rise to the challenge of securing a new energy future for our country, for this is not only one of the most important environmental commitments we can make to each other, but it is also a decision about our national security and our economy. Let's work toward an environmental future that our children's children will, years from now, reflect upon as a turning point in our history, a time during which we came together and worked for the best interest of humanity, across the globe.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING ARMY LIEUTENANT JEROME N. SHAPIRO

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this week, as we observe Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom Hashoah, I would like to take a moment to recognize Stephanie Mellen of Troy, MI, for her tireless and enduring efforts to honor the memory of her father and help ensure that the horrific events of the Holocaust will never be forgotten.

On May 7, 1945, Ms. Mellen's father, 1Lt Jerome N. Shapiro, led the team that captured Air Marshal Hermann Goering, the de facto leader of Nazi Germany following Adolf Hitler's suicide. Eighty miles behind enemy lines in Austria, Lieutenant Shapiro and three others caught Goering and his entourage of 78 people. Goering calmly surrendered his weapon to Lieutenant Shapiro, a Jewish American, and was held under Lieutenant Shapiro's command at Fischhorn Castle in Zell Am See, Austria, until he was transferred to Allied headquarters 2 days later. Hermann Goering was the principal defendant at the Nuremberg Trials the following year, and Lieutenant Shapiro continued as part of his guard detail during the trial.

Lieutenant Shapiro was hesitant to talk about his role in Goering's capture, but Stephanie Mellen began to

understand the importance of his story even as a young girl. She saw the gun that her father was carrying when Goering surrendered and recalls using Goering's field typewriter to type her school assignments. Stephanie was 13 years old when she saw her father named as "Goering's guard" in a television documentary. These memories helped her to understand and appreciate what her father accomplished.

Lieutenant Shapiro passed away on April 4, 1968, but his legacy lives on through the committed actions of his daughter. Stephanie Mellen has spent countless hours writing and speaking to educate people on the importance of what her father did to bring Hermann Goering to justice. She shares her father's story to honor the courage and resolve of Lieutenant Shapiro and all those members of America's "greatest generation" who fought and defeated the Axis Powers in one of humanity's most critical moments. But most of all, she shares the story of her father to remind all of us that the cause of universal human freedom and dignity is our own.●

NOTIFICATION OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER BLOCKING PROPERTY OF ADDITIONAL PERSONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA—PM 45

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, as amended (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order blocking property of persons in connection with the terrorist act in Beirut, Lebanon, on February 14, 2005, that resulted in the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and the deaths of 22 others, and other bombings or assassination attempts in Lebanon since October 1, 2004, that are related to Hariri's assassination or that implicate the Government of Syria or its officers or agents. I issued this order to take additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004, concerning certain actions of the Government of Syria. In Executive Order 13338, I determined that the actions of the Government of Syria in supporting terrorism, continuing its occupation of Lebanon, pursuing weapons of mass destruction, and undermining United States and international efforts in Iraq constituted an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, and declared a national emergency to deal with that threat.

The United Nations Security Council, in Resolution 1595 of April 7, 2005, established the international independent investigation Commission (the "Commission"), reiterated its call for the strict respect of the sovereignty of Lebanon, and reaffirmed its unequivocal condemnation of the February 14, 2005, terrorist bombing that killed Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and 22 others. The Commission's charter included identifying the bombing perpetrators, sponsors, organizers, and accomplices. United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1636 of October 31, 2005, called upon all States to provide necessary assistance to the Commission concerning its investigation into the February 14, 2005, terrorist bombing and to freeze the assets of those persons designated by the Commission or the Government of Lebanon as suspected of involvement in this terrorist act, upon notification of such designation to, and agreement of, the Committee of the Security Council established by UNSCR 1636. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1644 of December 15, 2005, condemned other terrorist attacks in Lebanon since October 2004 and reaffirmed that all those involved in these attacks must be held accountable for these crimes, and in doing so, authorized the Commission to extend its technical assistance to Lebanese authorities with regard to their investigations regarding the terrorist attacks perpetrated in Lebanon since October 1, 2004.

In view of UNSCR 1636, my new order takes additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13338 by blocking the property and interests in property of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, to be, or to have been, involved in the planning, sponsoring, organizing, or perpetrating of the terrorist act on February 14, 2005, that resulted in the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and the deaths of 22 others, or any other bombing, assassination, or assassination attempt in Lebanon since October 1, 2004, that is related to Hariri's assassination or that implicates the Government of Syria or its officers and agents, or to have obstructed or otherwise impeded the work of the Commission. The order further authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, to designate for blocking those persons determined to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, any such terrorist act, bombings, or assassination attempts, or any person designated pursuant to this order, or to be owned or controlled by, or acting or purporting to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person designated pursuant to this order.

I delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to

take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA and the United Nations Participation Act, as amended (22 U.S.C. 287c), as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of my order. The order was effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on April 26, 2006.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 26, 2006.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2341. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of a project to reclaim and reuse wastewater within and outside of the service area of the City of Austin Water and Wastewater Utility, Texas.

H.R. 4709. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen protections for law enforcement officers and the public by providing criminal penalties for the fraudulent acquisition or unauthorized disclosure of phone records.

H.R. 4916. An act to authorize United States participation in, and appropriations for, the United States contribution to the first replenishment of the resources of the Enterprise for the Americas Multilateral Investment Fund.

H.J. Res. 83. An act to memorialize and honor the contribution of Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill and joint resolution, without amendment:

S. 592. An act to amend the Irrigation Project Contract Extension Act of 1998 to extend certain contracts between the Bureau of Reclamation and certain irrigation water contractors in the States of Wyoming and Nebraska.

S.J. Res. 28. An act approving the location of the commemorative work in the District of Columbia honoring former President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2341. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of a project to reclaim and reuse wastewater within and outside of the service area of the City of Austin Water and Wastewater Utility, Texas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4709. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen protections for law enforcement officers and the public by providing criminal penalties for the fraudulent acquisition or unauthorized disclosure of phone records; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 4916. An act to authorize United States participation in, and appropriations